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## Honorary Degree Citation: Richard W. Riley

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Granted 1986

## RICHARD W. RILEY

After receiving a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law, Richard W. Riley served as legal counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate. You also served as a South Carolina state representative and state senator from 1963 to 1977 and in 1978 were elected governor of South Carolina.

As a two-term governor of South Carolina, you spearheaded a comprehensive and highly successful reform of that state's school system by bringing together a coalition of groups, including business people, educators, and parents.

As Secretary of Education, you have been praised widely for your role in recent progress in American education. Your achievements include the expansion and streamlining of the college loan program while eliminating wasteful spending, as well as the creation of laws to help local school districts ensure that children can learn in safety and security. You enacted programs that develop links between schools and the workplace so America's students will be better prepared for jobs of the future or continuing their education.

As Secretary of Education, you were instrumental in President Clinton's signing into law six groundbreaking education initiatives — a cohesive set of programs that span from kindergarten through college. These actions created an establishment of challenging standards for learning that every child can reach; and the redesign and improvement of the primary federal program for helping disadvantaged elementary and high school students.

These new laws, along with initiatives developed by you, like the Family Involvement Partnership for Learning, are designed to get parents more involved in their children's education, offer positive solutions that are helping families and their children gain the control and the skills necessary to navigate today's challenges. For your many achievements and your pursuit of better education for the next generation, Governors State University Honors and Salutes you.